

Calendar Year
2005

US EPA REGION 9 SUPERFUND DIVISION

PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE THE YEAR IN REVIEW

A Message from Dan Meer, Chief, Response, Planning and Assessment Branch

Colleagues and Friends,

This Annual Report summarizes notable prevention, preparedness and response activities of the Response, Planning and Assessment Branch over the last calendar year. 2005 will be remembered as a watershed year, during which EPA was tested as never before, facing unprecedented challenges in responding to a catastrophic natural disaster. The emergency response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita stretched our resources to the maximum, from logistics and communication to human resources. For

example, the Agency has not been involved with many disaster responses where we spent the first several days engaged in classic search and rescue operations. However, as I look back on 2005, we have had some significant achievements other than the hurricane response. We responded to a major oil spill into Pyramid Lake and completed the clean up of our Region's largest radiation site in a North Hollywood residential neighborhood. Our preparedness and response programs participated in the roll out of the National Response Plan to our state and local partners and our



oil program had a record breaking year in terms of enforcement and compliance activities. We also conducted a major outreach effort in El Dorado County, CA regarding naturally occurring asbestos. Our work is varied and interesting and we look forward to collaborating with our federal, state and local partners as we meet the new challenges of 2006. One Team, One Fight.

Dan Meer



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Special points of interest:

- EPA R9 and the Katrina Response
- The Oceania and Mainland Regional Response Teams Annual Reports
- Program Highlights





Betsy Curnow

Who We Are

In 2005 we reorganized the Branch into 4 Sections to improve internal coordination and our external program delivery. Our Emergency Response Section, Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section and Enforcement and Removal Operations Section collaborate to eliminate any danger to the public and the environment posed by hazardous substance releases and oil spills.

Our States, Tribes and Site Assessment Section, although not a focus of this report, has the critical EPA lead to evaluate the potential for a release of hazardous substances from a site. This section works cooperatively with State and Tribal governments to clean up Superfund and other hazardous waste sites, providing funding to support their cleanup programs.



Pete Guria

Branch Organization Chart

Dan Meer

Administration — BRANCH CHIEF — Homeland Security Coordinator

States, Tribes & Site Assessment Section

Chief: Betsy Curnow

9 Site Assessment Specialists, State and Tribal Project Officers, 1 Admin

Federal Facility PA/SI

Site Screening

USACE IAG PO

CERCLIS

NPL Coordination

Tribal Grants

Emergency Response Section

Chief: Pete Guria

16 On Scene Coordinators

3 based in Los Angeles, CA

1 based in Carson City, NV

Emergency Responders

Regional and Area Contingency Planning

Terrorism Response

Natural Disaster Response

CERCLA Removal Program

Emergency Preparedness & Prevention Section

Chief: Kay Lawrence

Acting Chief : John Kennedy (March-Aug '06)

14 Prep/Prevention Specialists, 1 Admin.

Response Support Corps

RRT/ORRT/JRT Coordination

Compliance Assistance, Inspections and Enforcement of EPCRA and CAA 112(r)

US/Mexico Border Program

Enforcement and Removal Operations Section

Chief: Jim Hanson

10 Enforcement and Removal Specialists, 1 Admin

Oil Pollution Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program

CERCLA Removal Enforcement and Cost Recovery

Facility Response Planning



Kay Lawrence



Jim Hanson

2006 Key Program Leads

Homeland Security and Regional Response Support Corps—

John Kennedy/Lauren Volpini

US/Mexico Border—Barbara Maco

Mainland RRT and Dispersant Use—Bill Robberson

Oceania RRT—Lance Richman

RMP & EPCRA—Mary Wesling

CAMEO—Janice Witul

AZ, HI & NV Liaison—Mike Ardito

CA & Tribal Liaison—Angie Proboszcz

SPCC—Mark Calhoun/Pete Reich

Facility Response Plans—Mark Samolis

Incident Management Team—Pete Guria

Avian and Pandemic Flu —Lauren Volpini

Oil Program — Jim Hanson

Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program Overview

Emergency Prevention

We help prevent accidents before they happen. Our emergency prevention programs are based on state, local and industrial partnerships, outreach and education, compliance assistance, inspection and investigation, and regulatory enforcement.

The prevention laws and regulations that we implement are authorized under the:

- ◆ Emergency Planning and Community Right To Know Act (EPCRA)
- ◆ Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP)

- ◆ Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act Section 103 (CERCLA)
- ◆ Clean Water Act (CWA) Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC)
- ◆ CWA Facility Response Plan



Emergency Preparedness

The National Response System and the National Contingency Plan provide the framework for our preparedness activities. We work closely with Region 9 federal, state, and local response partners. Because of the border we share with Mexico, we also work with Mexican officials at all government levels.

Our programming and tools which focus on planning and preparedness include:

- ◆ US/Mexico Border Program
- ◆ Regional Response Teams in Oceania and Mainland Region 9
- ◆ Area Contingency and Geographic Response Planning

- ◆ Terrorism Preparedness
- ◆ State and Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (SERC) and Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Partnerships
- ◆ Training and Technical Support
 - CAMEO & ALOHA
 - Hazmat & Oil Response Operations



Emergency Response

EPA Region 9's Emergency Response Program — with federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSCs) based in San Francisco and Signal Hill, California and Carson City, NV — responds to environmental disasters, hazardous material releases, time-critical removals, and inland oil spills that threaten human health and/or the environment. FOSCs also participate in emergency preparedness drills, counter-terrorism drills and planning, and SPCC inspections. Response activities are conducted in sync with the National Contingency Plan and the National Response System, and, when it is activated, the

National Response Plan. EPA's FOSCs eliminate imminent threats to the public health and welfare and respond to environmental threats that may seriously damage natural or economic resources. Situations requiring emergency response actions include uncontrolled releases of hazardous substances or petroleum products such as train accidents, chemical fires or explosions, chemical abandonment, release of oil to waterways and acts of terrorism. FOSCs provide response assistance to local, state, and other federal and tribal agencies and act as the

Incident Commander for sites where the USEPA has the lead role. EPA has responded to thousands of actual and potentially polluting incidents in the Pacific Southwest since 1981.

Capabilities

- Emergency Response Operations
 - chemical
 - radiological
 - biological
 - terrorism
- Site Characterization
- Emergency Cleanups
- Criminal Investigation Support
- Training Support
- Oversight
- Local and State Agency Technical Support

Superfund Removal Actions eliminate sources of contamination and prevent direct exposure of humans or the environment to hazardous substances.

Response Resources include

- Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START)
- Emergency Rapid Response Services (ERRS)
- US Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team (PST)
- Regional and national laboratories
- National enforcement support

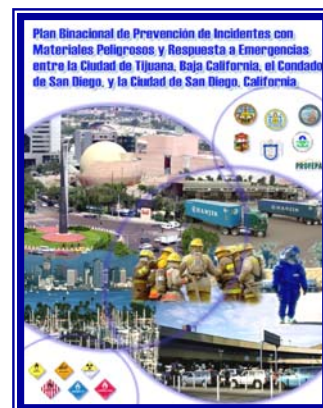
Partnerships

While EPA offers technical expertise, resources and federal authorities not found in the private or public sectors, much of its work is done in concert with a broad range of stakeholders.

The Regional and Oceania Regional Response Teams and their member agencies are collaborative, multi-agency consortiums which are co-led by US EPA and the US Coast Guard. They are 2 of 13 Teams established by the National Contingency Plan, fundamental elements of the National Response System and the nexus of oil and hazardous substance response preparedness and planning for 15 Federal Agencies, the 4 Region 9 States, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Territories. The primary objective of the Teams is to protect public health and safety, response personnel and the environment by ensuring coordinated, efficient, and effective support of the federal, state, territorial, local and international responses to significant oil and hazardous substance incidents within Region 9.



US/Mexico Exercise Scenario: Ammonia Tanker Truck Spill at the San Diego/Tijuana Customs Crossing



The US/Mexico Joint Response Team is co-led by US EPA HQ, Region 6, Region 9 and our Mexican counterparts. It focuses on federal disaster planning and preparedness for our 1,200 mile shared border with Mexico. We also participate on the US / Mexico JRT for protection of the marine environment. We are key players on the Borderwide Emergency Preparedness and Response Workgroup of the US/Mexico Border 2012 Program. We collaborate with other environmental programs through Border 2012 and have access to funding and guidance which we share with our border stakeholders.



In 2005, Lauren Volpini received US EPA's National Gold Medal for our US/Mexico Emergency Preparedness and Response Program

Achieving Results

Prevention Highlights

Oil Program Activities

- 90 facilities were inspected to assess compliance.
- 20 facility response plans were reviewed
- 18 oil spill exercises were conducted
- Aggressive enforcement program for prevention and discharge violations initiated
- 7 Cleanup Orders issued.

EPA's Oil Program conducted 90 inspections of facilities subject to the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) requirements. These requirements are established to prevent the discharge of oil into navigable waterways and adjoining shorelines such as streams and creeks. A majority of these inspections resulted in compliance

with the SPCC regulations, illustrating that these facilities can adequately prevent or respond to an oil spill. EPA also initiated 24 enforcement actions against facilities for moderate or severe SPCC or oil discharge violations.

Under the Clean Water Act, facilities that store large amounts of oil (typically greater than 1 million gallons) must prepare and submit Facility Response Plans (FRPs) which describe how they would respond to a worst case discharge of oil. EPA helped ensure that these FRP facilities could adequately respond to an oil spill by conducting 18 unannounced exercises in Arizona, California, and Hawaii. All of these exercises resulted in the demonstration of a successful response to the oil spill scenario. In

addition to the inspections and exercises, we also responded to 16 oil spills where EPA provided oversight of cleanup activities.

Achieving Results

Preparedness Highlights

Oceania Regional Response Team (ORRT). We held meetings in Kona, Honolulu, Guam and Saipan; established the ORRT strategic plan and workplan; and addressed an issue of national significance: oil pollution response (due to loss of vessel structural integrity, sometimes aggravated by storms) to the hundreds of U.S. vessels

that sank during World War II in the South Pacific arena.

CAMEO. We trained over 60 Emergency Responders on three Hawaiian islands on the Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) suite of software, at 2-day classes.



Incident Management Training



EPA Regional Administrator Wayne Nastri, Rich Martyn, Bryan Gower and Pete Guria roll out the NRP.

Spring Roll-Out of National Response Plan in Universal City, CA. One of the six federal conferences to roll out the National Response Plan was held in Universal City, CA on April 26, 2005. Primarily, EPA serves as the chair of Emergency Support Function #10 (response to oil or hazardous materials spills) during a Presidential declared disaster. The new

National Response Plan was signed in December 2004 by 31 federal participating agencies, but this document required by a Homeland Security Presidential Directive was formally announced in January. The Region was represented by the Regional Administrator—Wayne Nastri, Superfund Division Director—Keith Takata, Response, Planning and Assessment Branch

Chief—Daniel Meer, Emergency Response Section Chief—Pete Guria, and On-Scene Coordinator—Rich Martyn. Pete Guria participated in a panel discussion that focused on the roles and responsibilities of federal agencies involved in a natural disaster or terrorist incident.



Harry L. Allen — Incident Management Training

Audit Policy Casework

As a result of inspections, enforcement and compliance outreach, including workshops in Yuma, Phoenix, and Tucson, Arizona, 18 facilities in Arizona and Southern California are now in compliance with EPCRA 311 & 312, and CAA 112(r)(7). These 18 facilities are the first in a group of 27 Audit Policy self disclosures received by the Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Section. If a facility satisfies the nine criteria of the Audit Policy, they are eligible to receive a zero dollar penalty

for correcting their disclosed violations and certifying continued compliance with environmental regulations. Several of these facilities use or store hazardous chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia, propane, sulfuric acid, or jet fuel. Their successful use of the Audit Policy may encourage other entities to self-police and improve their environmental compliance. Section 311 & 312 of EPCRA and Risk Management Plan (CAA 112(r)(7)) regulations play an important role in preventing accidental chemical releases, and in facilitating EPA, state and local community

emergency planning, preparedness and response, as well as ensuring the public's access to information on chemical hazards present in their community.



Bill Robberson dons a Level A Suit in a tri-Regional Incident Management Training held in the Las Vegas Stadium.



Achieving Results

Response Highlights



Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: Beginning in early September, 2005, EPA Region 9 assisted EPA Region 6 and FEMA with perhaps the largest response to a natural disaster in the history of both Agencies. EPA FOSCs, response support corps (RSC) members, Incident Management Team (IMT) members, drinking water program specialists and public information officers all brought their expertise, dedication and hard work to the task, under very arduous conditions.

Over half of the EPA staff deployed has been from our EPA Region 9 Superfund Division. Region 9 staff have participated in search and rescue operations, drinking water system technical assistance, field reconnaissance, rapid needs assessments, field command post incident management, response performance evaluations and numerous field operations. In addition, we have coordinated air operations, provided operational support in the Region 6 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Dallas, and have provided personnel to act as the Senior Federal Official and to fill critical positions on the Incident Management Team.

Refrigerator Duty

At the St. Tammany Hazardous Debris Collection Center, in Slidell, LA, EPA collected, received, and processed or disposed of household hazardous wastes (HHW) and “white goods” (mostly refrigerators). Contractors for EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sifted through debris piles to find these potentially hazardous materials. Most debris was placed curb-side by persons who had gutted their homes or otherwise removed flood-damaged belongings. Cleanup crews extracted the materials and transported them to the Collection Center. For several weeks following the hurricane, HHW was collected by EPA from piles of debris along the streets of St. Tammany Parish. Up to 1,000 pieces of HHW were collected each day and segregated at the Collection Center. Hazcatting of unknowns, bulking and off-site disposal followed. EPA set up satellite HHW collection facilities in some towns within the Parish. EPA worked in conjunction with local agencies to segregate these materials, and transport them to the Collection Center for processing and disposal.

Six hundred to 1,500 refrigerators were transported to the Collection Center on a daily basis. An EPA crew of 100-plus persons removed spoiled food, washed out units with 10% bleach solution, and removed Freon. The final stage of the operation included crushing and bailing the refrigerators. Scrapped and bailed refrigerators were sold to a local scrap dealer. The Collection Center has already processed in excess of 20,000 refrigerators in this manner. The Katrina relief effort currently includes 10 additional Collection Centers of this type operated by EPA and USACE. Many of these centers handle much more material than the St. Tammany center.

Environmental Sampling

EPA conducted contingency and routine air monitoring and sampling for multiple parameters including particulates, asbestos, metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). EPA and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality built 19 fixed air sampling stations located across 6 parishes. EPA conducted sediment sampling on a routine basis in heavily impacted areas to identify large hot spots of pollutants of concern. Samples were collected from dried sediments that were deposited in neighborhoods after flood water receded.



Janice Witul and Lisa Fasano resting in their trailer after a long day ensuring the health and safety of EPA workers.



Superfund Division Director Keith Takata surrounded by his Regional staff at the Command



EPA stands watch over water sample collection in Louisiana.

Achieving Results

Response Highlights

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: (Continued)

Long Term Staffing for Katrina:

In order to effectively manage this large response, specific geographic areas have been assigned to different EPA Regions. Regions 8, 9 and 10 have been assigned to Cameron Parish in west Louisiana. This allows the Agency to maximize utilization of resources, maintain operational continuity and strengthen relationships with state and local officials. Positions are currently being staffed by OSCs, Response Support Corps, and Incident Management Team members. They are primarily responsible for overseeing tank, drum, and small container reconnaissance and collection, chemical identification, consolidation, transportation and disposal of wastes. These positions will continue on 21 day rotational assignments throughout this summer.



Jeremy Johnstone, Lance Richman and Donn Zuroski.



Steve Calanog briefs the group on the day's activities.



Pyramid Lake, CA



A reported Ricin container

Achieving Results

Response Highlights

Pyramid Lake Oil Spill

On March 23, 2005, a landslide in the Angeles National Forest broke a 14" crude oil pipeline owned by Pacific Energy Partners. The release was estimated at 126,000 gallons and flowed into Pyramid Lake, a drinking water reservoir for the city of Los Angeles located in the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests, approximately 60 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

EPA Region 9 conducted the first test of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by coordinating response efforts in a Unified Command with Pacific Energy Partners (the potentially responsible party), U.S.D.A. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, L.A. County HazMat, and the L.A. County Sheriff's Department. Cleanup activities to effectively recover the oil from the lake and shoreline continued for several months. Long term actions to remove the oil from the shoreline and canyons will involve the use of traditional methods and innovative tools such as bioremediation. Restoration work will continue in the National Forest into 2006.

Ricin Response in Mesa, AZ

In early June, 2005, a Mesa, Arizona resident admitted himself to the Desert Banner Hospital claiming to have been exposed to ricin. Ricin is a poison that can be made from the waste left over from processing castor beans, which are used throughout the world to make castor oil. Ricin can be lethal when inhaled or ingested. The Arizona DHS laboratory tested samples collected at the resident's lodgings and reported several positive tests for ricin, including the substance from the resident's necklace vial. At the request of the State of Arizona for assistance with decontamination and possible transition to site remediation, EPA responded with Level C, B and A entry capability. The EPA team supported FBI Hazardous Materials Response Teams, ADEQ and Mesa

(continued on page 8)

Achieving Results

Response Highlights

Ricin Response (continued)

Fire Department personnel with site characterization, evidence collection, field hazard categorization, debris sorting and removal and decontamination activities. Although initial tests for ricin were positive, they were confirmed negative and EPA demobilized.

Preservation Aviation Radium Dial Site

In the summer of 2005, we completed a cleanup of the Region's largest radiation site. We removed radium-containing aircraft dials and other miscellaneous hazardous substances from an unlicensed facility in a residential neighborhood of North Hollywood. Over 4,800 cubic yards of radioactive materials were identified and removed.

Two large buildings were painstakingly surveyed under the Multi-Agency Radiation Surveys and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM) for residual radioactive contamination. One of the buildings was sufficiently decontaminated and released without public use restrictions, pending State Radiologic Health Branch approval. The other building was demolished. Joint investigations of the responsible party by Federal and State agencies led to other illegal storage locations in San Bernardino County.

Multi-Agency Coordination and Entries

Based upon information obtained at the Preservation Aviation site, the FBI conducted a radiation survey at the Chino Airport, in San Bernardino County, California, and confirmed the presence and storage of radium-containing items.

During the FBI search, EPA entered the hangar to collect environmental data and criminal evidence. EPA personnel collected samples including wipe samples for removable radioactive contamination; fixed alpha radiation survey measurements; gamma isotope speciation data; and air samples for radioactive particles and radon samples. EPA also collected all chemical samples for use in the FBI criminal case and to support an Action Memorandum.

Public Health Threat and EPA Removal Actions

During the Preservation Aviation assessment, one of the hangars was found to contain elevated levels of radon above EPA action levels, which included elevated levels of airborne alpha and beta emitters; gamma dose rates up to 5,000 uR/hr; fixed alpha emitter contamination; removable alpha and beta emitter contamination above Nuclear Regulatory Commission Reg. Guide 1.86; and confirmation of the presence of radium using a multi-channel gamma spectrometer. Upon examining the data and consultations with State of California and EPA scientists, the hangar was quarantined due to the presence of uncontrolled radioactive materials throughout the common airspace of the hangar. To address the public health threat, EPA placed a ventilation system inside the hangar to filter the air and covered the radioactive materials to prevent further migration of contaminated particulates.

A second hangar also contained elevated levels of radon, airborne alpha and beta emitters and fixed alpha emitters.

In response to the threats to public health posed by the two hangars and their radioactive contents, EPA directed and oversaw the removal and disposal of the radioactive sources.



EPA's Ricin Response Setup
Mesa, AZ



Preservation Aviation
Radium Dial Site



Preservation Aviation
Radium Dial Site

Looking to the Future



Prevention in 2006 — Oil Program

For 2006, the overarching goal is to minimize the size, number and impact of oil spills to navigable waters and sensitive habitats. This will be achieved through five main program areas — prevention, preparedness, monitoring and response, enforcement and outreach.

- ◆ EPA will participate in the roll out of the amendments to the SPCC Rule, which will extend compliance dates and streamline the regulatory requirements for qualified facilities and equipment regulated under 40 CFR Part 112.
- ◆ EPA will begin implementing an expedited enforcement program for oil spills. This program will make it easier for facilities to settle cases faster when the oil spill is relatively small and has inconsequential impacts on the environment.

Preparedness in 2006

- ◆ As in years past, our Branch will provide instructors and other support to the 17th Annual Continuing Challenge HazMat Emergency Response Workshop in Sacramento.
- ◆ Preparations for the October 2007 Top Off IV Exercise in Phoenix and Guam
- ◆ National Response Plan and Preparedness Exercises
- ◆ OSC Readiness Training — July and February 07
- ◆ Back Up Region for EPA's Training and Exercises
- ◆ The year 2006 will mark the 20th anniversary of EPCRA. It will be commemorated in Region 9 with participation in activities such as the Arizona State Emergency Response Commission's EPCRA conference in October, in Casa Grande, as well as at

HazMat Explo 10, in Las Vegas, in November

US/Mexico Border Initiatives in 2006

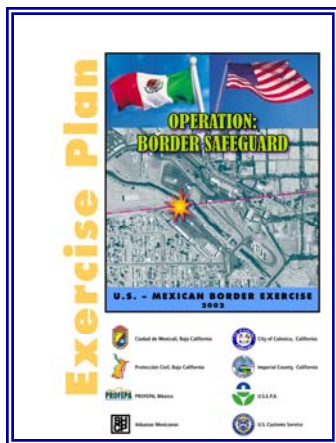
- ◆ Complete the Emergency Management Academy infrastructure and first responder training.
- ◆ Conduct exercise in Mexicali/Imperial County to test local and national protocols
- ◆ Implement high risk source reduction projects -
 - ★ Target industry (Mexicali/IC)
 - ★ Rail cars (Arizona/Sonora)

EPCRA/RMP

In 2006, inspections will target facilities with high-impact potential such as ammonia refrigeration facilities and refineries. Other inspection targets will be identified from local agency referrals and spill reports.

Response in 2006

- ◆ Continued OSC and RSC support to the Katrina response
- ◆ Relocation of the Southern California OSC's and equipment warehouse
- ◆ Addition of Specialized Response Equipment
- ◆ Continued Development of the Regional Incident Management Team
- ◆ Coordination with State and Local Response Agencies



Key Websites and Contact Information

US EPA Websites

Region 9 Homepage: www.epa.gov/region09

Region 9 Superfund Div: www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund

OSC Website: www.epaosc.net

Chemical Emergency Preparedness & Prevention Website

<http://Yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/index.html>

Oil Spill Web Site <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/index.htm>

Federal Telephone Numbers for reporting polluting incidents and obtaining information:

National Response Center: The NRC receives emergency calls and forwards them to the US EPA and to the States.

1-800-424-8802

US EPA Region 9 Emergency Operations Center: 1-800-300-2193

RMP, EPCRA and SPCC Hotline:

1-800-424-9346

Superfund Hotline:

1-800-231-3075

USEPA Region 9 State Emergency Response Hotlines

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality 602.390.7894

AZ Spills from businesses 602.390.7894

AZ Transit related spills 602.223.2212

California Office of Emergency Services Warning Center: 800.852.2193

Nevada Department of Environmental Quality 775.687.4670 ext 3013

Hawaii Emergency Response Office 808.586.4249 (business hours)

808.247.2191 (evenings/weekends)